

Selected Poetry of William Blake

Vocabulary Warm-up Word Lists

Study these words from the selections. Then, complete the activities that follow.

Word List A

aspire [uh SPYR] *v.* to have a great ambition or goal; desire strongly

I hope my child will aspire to attend college.

bound [BOWND] *v.* confined by limits; tied

The medic bound the soldier's broken arm with a bandage.

mead [MEED] *n.* a meadow

We had our picnic on the mead behind our house.

mild [MYLD] *adj.* gentle or kind in behavior; pleasant

Janet is such a mild person that she smiles at everyone she meets.

rejoice [rih JOYS] *v.* celebrate

My friends and I will rejoice when we graduate from high school.

seize [SEEZ] *v.* grab; take possession of something forcefully

Li did not make her loan payments, so the bank will soon seize her car.

struggling [STRUG ling] *v.* striving; to make a strenuous effort

Martha is struggling to learn how to swim.

wept [WEPT] *v.* shed tears; cried

We wept during the sad part of the movie.

Word List B

distant [DIS tent] *adj.* separate or apart in space; far away

The settler traveled to the distant town by train.

dread [DRED] *adj.* causing terror or fear

The monster inspired a dread awe among the children.

grasp [GRASP] *n.* the act of firmly holding; an embrace

It is difficult to grasp something that is slippery.

immortal [im MORT uhl] *adj.* living forever; not subject to death

No living creature is immortal because all organisms must eventually die.

meek [MEEK] *adj.* easily imposed on; submissive

Tara's meek response indicated that she was not sure of her answer.

sinews [SIN yooz] *n.* tendons or other strong connecting tissues

The bodybuilder's sinews stood out strongly when he flexed his muscles.

striving [STRYV ing] *v.* to contend; to struggle forcefully

Ambitious people are always striving to achieve great things.

sulk [SUHLK] *v.* to be silently withdrawn

When her mother refused to give her more ice cream, Jamie began to sulk.